

Commercial Building
809 Market Space (Pennsylvania Ave.), N.W.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-222

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
801 19th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. DC-222

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

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Location: 809 Market Space, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: Simon and M. Krupsaw
817 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present Occupant: "Sleep Center".

Brief Statement of Significance: A rare remaining building illustrating the great period of Pennsylvania Avenue's commercial importance, with notable architectural features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATIONA. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Constructed in 1868 on east half of lot #2 of sq. 408 by Thomas L. Hume.

On Nov. 1, 1875, Thomas L. Hume deeded to William B. Kibbey [Deed 804-41 rec. Nov. 5, 1875].

Biscoe A. Kibbey, et al., heirs to estate of Wm. B. Kibbey, deceased Dec. 5, 1881, deeded on March 9, 1950 to Union Trust Co. [Deed 9203-386 rec. May 10, 1950].

In Deed 9240-124 rec. June 30, 1950, the Union Trust Co. deeded to Louis Krupsaw, et ux. on June 22, 1950.

According to record on Nov. 30, 1960 Louis Krupsaw deeded to David Krupsaw, et al. [Deed 11529-618 rec. Dec. 15, 1960].

2. Date of erection: 1868.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATIONA. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: This building is a prime specimen for depicting the commercial architectural style of the years after the Civil War, with cast-iron detailing.

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2. Condition of fabric: Fabric is in fair condition. Front is original material.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 80' X 25'; three bays across front; four stories and basement; rectangular in shape.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Masonry bearing walls. The three-bay wide front wall seems to be made of cast iron with a natural stone-gray color. Seventy-five per cent of the east wall is covered with cement stucco facing, with the top quarter of the building revealing red brick. There are imprints on this wall which outline where the once existing building lay against it. Steel rods have been inserted in this wall for reinforcement.

The rear one-third of this building is two stories high, also with a flat roof. This wall is three bays wide also and made of red brick with common bonding.

3. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Entrance is 5'4" wide with modern double doors that are 7' tall and made of glass with metal framing. These doors swing out.
- b. Windows: The entire first story front has been modernized and has large display windows with metal framing.

The second story is three bays wide with a large double-hung window (2/2) per bay. On either side of each window is a Corinthian column which is in the round and rests at the surface of the wall. The tops of the windows are rounded at the corners. Framing the tops of the windows is a simple facing which is continuous across the front of the building and which is supported by the columns.

Just above this is a course of dentils which extends across the front. Above this is a simple moulded belt on which the third story columns rest. All of the upper stories are alike except the fourth story which has windows and columns that are approximately three-fifths the height of the others.

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Between the second and third stories at each end of the wall is a large bracket-like motif which terminates the moulded belt (typical).

4. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Roof is flat with slight slope running south to north.
- b. Cornice: The cornice is moulded and has at its center a large semicircular motif which has moulded trim. The motif's center is recessed approx. 18" and on this recess surface is a circular panel with bold numbers in high relief: "1868". The trimming of this motif comes down to meet the cornice which is terminated at each end by a rectangular-prismatic object resembling a little two-story house with a barrel-vault roof. This detail is supported by a decorative bracket. There are two other similar brackets supporting each side of the center motif. Under the cornice is a course of large dentils similar to that mentioned earlier. Down each side of the wall to the top of the first story is a vertical strip. This strip is detailed with vertical geometric shapes in a symmetrical pattern. At the second and third story levels, the detailing resembles two long vertical hexagons spaced apart with a diamond shape between them. At the fourth story level, the detailing is similar except the outer ends of the hexagonal figures are inwardly circular.

The strip continues under the moulded bands mentioned previously with the pattern repeating between them:

A simple metal cornice runs along the top of the east wall to the rear where it meets a water leader and drain pipe.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The plan of the building is rectangular in shape. The entire interior area of the building is open for display, sales circulation, etc. The entire first floor has been modernized with portions of the second floor modernized. (The third and fourth floors were not accessible for inspection). The third and fourth floors were not being used.

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2. Stairways: Stairway leading to basement was modernized with 1' runners and (14) 7" risers. Treads covered with composition tile.

Stairs to second floor had wood railing (moulded), wood treads 1' deep, 21 risers with 1" nosing.

3. Flooring: First floor material was composition tiles covered with carpeting. Upper floors of wood framing--uncovered. Basement was carpeted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on walls with sheet metal ceiling. Ceiling painted black (probably not original color). The walls are painted white. Ceiling is 8' (basement), second floor has brick walls (common bonding) painted white. First floor ceiling is 15' high.
5. Doorways and doors: Doorways were large openings with moulded wood trim with corner blocks. Doors are wood (original) with two vertical moulded panels and were 6'8".
6. Mechanical equipment: Air conditioning unit is present on rear roof of building. Heating and cooling ducts are visible on first and second floors. Electrical wiring and plumbing are visible. There were modern light fixtures and outlets.

D. Site and surroundings:

General setting: Front faces south; adjacent building on west wall; vacant lot on east side.

Prepared by: Thomas L. Fauntleroy
Student Architect
National Park Service
June 1969

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to
809 Market Space, NW (Commercial Building)
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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum
Hume Building (German Hi-Fi)
807 Market Space, NW , Square 408, Lot 802
Washington
District of Columbia

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Addendum to
809 Market Space, NW (Commercial Building)
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STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) THE HUME BUILDING		HABS NO. 222 DC-452
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE "German Hi-Fi"		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 807 Market Space, N.W., Square 408, Lot 802		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE). No building permit available, building's crest carries (see attached sheet #1)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Iron front buildings were popular in American cities from 1848-1900. Washington had less than twenty of these facades, and the HUME BUILDING is one of the last remaining cast-iron facades in the city. Because of its considerable size and methodical attention to facade ornamentation, this structure is a strong visual landmark (see attached sheet #1)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) High Victorian Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing walls with interior wood framing.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangle - approximately 25'x90'x55'. Basement plus four stories. Lower two stories are longer than upper two.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Modern storefront addition; symmetrical three-bay arrangement above storefront with cast-iron details and large windows; pseudo three-center arched windows with chamfer on archivolt front; colonnettes separate windows; sill line defined by moulded cornices; antae define with decorative panel motif facade edges; (see attached sheet #1)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Basement - Random drywall partitions, storage area. First floor - Drywall partition spanning east-west axis at rear of retail area; front used for storage; rear has original pressed metal ceiling and mezzanine. Second floor - East-west drywall partition on northside of building; (see attached sheet #1)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Minor interior repairs - Permit #1444, 4/13/1885.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE GOOD CONDITION - Musical equipment store.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This building lies within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. It is scheduled for redevelopment as part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's Historic Preservation Plan, 1977.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Memorial Library - plat map information, Records, National Archives - building permit information.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION James Francis Anderson Netton/Mariotti for		DATE 11/17/80

807 Market Space, NW, (Commercial Building)
"German Hi-Fi"
807 Market Space, N.W., Square 408, Lot 802
Washington, D. C.

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DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) (cont'd.)

an 1868 date. Plat map (Bastert, 1872) shows its existence by 1872.

SIGNIFICANCE: (cont'd.)

The building forms part of a row of traditional commercial structures. The row has high visibility from Pennsylvania Avenue.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (cont'd.)

massive uppermost cornice and crest, supported by consoles separating each bay.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (cont'd.)

used as storage; original metal ceiling; hardwood flooring; metal skylight on rear area. Third, fourth floors - Open, vacant area; exposed wood joists; hardwood flooring. Stairs from first to second floor on rear or north. From second through fourth along south and of eastern wall.